

SECRET

6 November 1963

BACKGROUND DATA, SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The 12-man Military Executive Committee formed on 5 November is the highest authority in South Vietnam, formalizing the control of the coup leaders over the provisional government headed by Premier Tho, the former Vice President.

Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Duong Van Minh (Big Minh)
Vice Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Tran Van Don
Vice Chairman:	Maj.Gen. Ton That Dinh
Economic Coord:	Maj.Gen. Tran Van Minh (Little Minh)
Foreign Affairs:	Maj.Gen. Le Van Kim
Military Affairs:	Maj.Gen. Tran Thien Khiem
Security Affairs:	Brig.Gen. Pham Xuan Chieu
Political Affairs:	Brig.Gen. Do Mau
at large:	Maj.Gen. Le Van Nghiem
	Brig.Gen. Mai Huu Xuan
	Brig.Gen. Nguyen Huu Co
	Brig.Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu

2. Three generals, in addition, have key jobs in the 14-man provisional cabinet (two of them in both bodies):

Defense:	Maj. Gen. Tran Van Don
Security:	Maj. Gen. Ton That Dinh
Information:	Brig. Gen Tran Tu Oai

3. Aside from Tho and Rural Affairs Minister Tran Lu Quang, another holdover from the Diem regime, the civilian members of the Provisional Government are essentially little-known technicians, most of them with civil service tenure dating back to the French colonial era. Aside from receptivity to French influence and example, the cabinet is distinguished by being predominantly Buddhist and drawn from southern Vietnam (in contrast to Diem's preference for officials of central or northern origin.)

4. A Consultative Council is expected to be formed soon to draft a new constitution, prepare for general elections six

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months to two years hence, and handle matters normally put to
the National Assembly, now disbanded.

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